

agriculture is the third largest industry in our State, accounting for over \$2.9 billion of our annual economy and at least 42,000 jobs, according to our State Department of Agriculture. So, like States all across the country, we are working within government and the private sector to diversify and strengthen our economy, specifically our agriculture sector.

However, one of the greatest threats that we are seeing in Hawaii and across the country to agriculture are invasive species. The macadamia felted coccid is one of more than 4,300 invasive species that threaten our agriculture industry. In Hawaii alone, the invasive species costs our local farmers, landowners, and ag industry millions of dollars every year and puts hundreds of our local small farms and thousands of local workers and the future of one of our most important crops at risk.

Just last month, I had the chance to visit multiple farms on Hawaii island in my district, an island that produces 80 percent of Hawaii's world-renowned macadamia nuts that are shipped and sold all around the world. I heard one story after another from our farmers about how this tiny, invasive insect is destroying farms and threatening livelihoods that really bring many of our communities together. At just one of these more than 620 macadamia growing farms in Hawaii, this insect destroyed 500,000 pounds of macadamia nuts in just 1 year.

Like most things, you can't fix a problem that you don't fully understand. Very little is known about this invasive pest—from its lifecycle to its seasonal pattern to its basic vulnerabilities—that directly impacts our ability to fight back. That is why I have introduced the macadamia tree health initiative today.

My bill would authorize much-needed research and development to combat the macadamia felted coccid and establish an area-wide integrated pest management plan in areas badly affected by this invasive pest. For years, these pest management plans have helped farmers across the country manage invasive pests in a sustainable, environmentally friendly, and cost-effective way.

My bill would build off this pattern of success by bringing together local stakeholders, researchers, and other key players as we search for comprehensive solutions to keep the macadamia felted coccid and other invasive species from destroying our local farms and this important part of our domestic agriculture industry.

In Hawaii, our macadamia nut industry employs thousands of people and is the economic lifeblood to many of our rural communities. Their jobs, their livelihood, and the vitality of our agriculture industry are at stake if we fail to act.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and empower our Nation's agriculture industry to fight back against these invasive harmful pests.

PERMANENT, FOREVER WARS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WAGNER). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I am now the only Republican remaining in Congress who voted against going to war in Iraq. For about 3 or 4 years, that was probably the most unpopular vote I ever cast. But slowly, slowly it became so that now probably it is the most popular vote I ever cast, because the American people do not want forever, permanent wars.

So, Madam Speaker, you can understand why I was very interested in two very recent columns that I read.

Adam Walinsky wrote in the September 21 Politico Magazine that he was a lifelong Democrat, former aid to John Kennedy, and former speechwriter for Robert Kennedy. He wrote, though, that he will be voting Republican in the Presidential race this year.

He said: "But today's Democrats have become the Party of War: a home for arms merchants, mercenaries, academic war planners, lobbyists for every foreign intervention, promoters of color revolutions, failed generals . . ."

□ 1045

He added that "Our first answer to trouble or opposition of any kind seems always to be a military movement or action."

He wrote that Secretary Clinton, unlike the Kennedy brothers, has not sought peace, but "instead she has pushed America into successive invasions, successive efforts at 'regime change.'"

Perhaps worst of all, according to Walinsky, "Her shadow War Cabinet brims with the architects of war and disaster for the past decades, the neocons who led us to our present pass, in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Yemen, in Ukraine, unrepentant of all past errors, ready to resume it all with fresh trillions and fresh blood."

Also, in yesterday's Washington Times, Jed Babbin, a former Deputy Secretary of Defense in the administration of the first George Bush, said the second George Bush made a terrible mistake allowing the neocons to lead him into nation building in the Middle East after he had spoken so strongly against such nation building when he was running for President. Secretary Babbin wrote that Islam is incompatible with democracy, and Iraq and Afghanistan—and I suppose these other countries where we are still sending troops—will go back the way they always have been when we leave, whether we stay 6 more months or 60 more years.

George Will wrote that the neocons were magnificently misnamed and really were the most radical people in Washington. These neocons have caused many thousands of young Americans to be killed or maimed for life. They should be ashamed, but they seem to have no shame.

The American people, Madam Speaker, I repeat, do not want permanent, forever wars. They want to do whatever it takes to win wars, get them over with, and go back to days of peace and prosperity.

REMEMBERING BATTALION CHIEF MICHAEL FAHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, yesterday there was an explosion in my district and yesterday New York City lost one of its bravest: FDNY Battalion Chief Michael Fahy, a 17-year veteran of the department and a father of three. He was a resident of Yonkers, New York, in my district, and a constituent of mine as well.

Fahy was responding to a house fire when the building exploded, taking Battalion Chief Fahy's life and wounding nine others, including another firefighter, seven NYPD officers, and one electrical worker. Thanks to these brave first responders, nobody else was hurt.

Every New Yorker mourns this loss today. Battalion Chief Fahy was a second-generation firefighter. His family's example is a reminder of the courage and dedication that the FDNY exemplifies.

We honor Battalion Chief Fahy and his family for their service and their sacrifice. I want to send along my personal prayers, thoughts, and condolences to his wife, his children, and the rest of his family. He may be gone, but he will never be forgotten. Today and forever more, we will mourn his loss.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANCIS D. FAULCONER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a decorated World War II Army liaison, an accomplished radio and television broadcaster, and my beloved great uncle, retired Lieutenant Colonel Francis D. Faulconer.

Soon after graduating from Lafayette High School in Lexington, Kentucky, Frank Faulconer enlisted in the United States Army in 1943 and was deployed to Europe in the Liaison G3 section of the first United States Army. In this capacity, he traveled with Combat Command A of the 3rd Army Spearhead Division from Meaux, France, to Rottgen, Germany.

He earned five Bronze Stars for his service in Normandy, northern France; Rhineland, Central Europe; and the Ardennes. He additionally was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for helping to escort the reserve elements of the Combat Command, at night, from the rear to the forward elements of the battle line.

In 1946, Faulconer enrolled at the University of Kentucky under the GI

Bill and earned a degree in oratory. He got his first start in broadcasting after he accepted a part-time job at radio station WKLX, where he became the station's official announcer to broadcast the Big Bands from 1948 to 1949 from Joyland Dance Casino.

In 1950, Faulconer joined the Officers' Reserve Corps, where he eventually retired from the Army Reserve in 1974 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Faulconer continued his broadcasting career by joining the WKYT Channel 27 news team in Lexington, where he became the station's first weatherman. He later transferred to Channel 36, where his career soared as a TV and weather broadcaster until 1986. There, he developed a reputation for having a melodious baritone voice with a colorful and entertaining style in delivering the daily weather forecast.

Faulconer then became radio station WKQQ's first weatherman, where he became known as Fearless Frank Faulconer, and known for his Fearless Frank's Five Day Forecasts until he retired in 2001.

During Faulconer's long and illustrious career, he received various awards both nationally and locally for his unique approach to weather broadcasting.

This year, on his 93rd birthday, June 16 was declared Frank Faulconer Day by the city of Lexington, Kentucky, honoring his years of service on radio, television, and as a World War II veteran.

I am proud of Lieutenant Colonel Faulconer's service to this country and for the many years of weather broadcasting. He has truly helped keep millions of Americans safe both at home and abroad. We recognize his service to our country, this true patriot and inspiration to us all.

END SENSELESS GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, I rise to acknowledge the brave Houstonians' law enforcement from many different jurisdictions who came to the aid of nine individuals who were shot randomly by a shooter in the last couple of days in Houston in a southwest shopping center, a place where many go for groceries, visit small businesses, and do their daily business, where many people are at work. Out of nowhere came a shooter whose home was ultimately investigated, where many items of military apparel and a load of guns were there to provide fear, I guess, in his decision to go on a shooting rampage after having a calm dinner with his family the night before.

This was an attorney, and our law enforcement are still investigating. My appreciation to the work and the detailed work that they are doing, and as well my appreciation and applause for the resiliency of Houstonians who came to the aid of their neighbors.

Then those who are recovering, I express my concern. But we will draw together and find a way to end this senseless violence and to begin to heal this Nation.

RUSSIA IS IMPACTING AND ATTEMPTING TO UNDERMINE THE FABRIC OF DEMOCRACY

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise as well to make it very clear that we do not have to speculate as we begin to see unfolding the Russian hacking of a number of governmental entities and, yes, the Democratic National Committee, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and many others.

There is no doubt that Russia is impacting and attempting to undermine the very fabric of democracy in this country. Now, I believe that we should engage with all nations the values of this Nation of democracy. The rights of freedom, a Declaration of Independence that guarantees unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are wonderful values, and we should not be afraid to engage with despotic regimes who disagree with us—Russia being one.

We should be alert and realize that, as we go into this election process, every well-informed citizen should be able to see something and say something. All of our law enforcement and intelligence community should be sensitive to the possible destruction and undermining of our democratic process.

Today it has been announced and determined that Russia did have something to do with the downing of that flight over Ukraine. How sad for those families and how hurting for the people of Ukraine to be able to know that they, as a sovereign nation, in a time that one would be advocating for peace and living harmoniously with their neighbors—that their very large neighbor, in addition to taking Crimea, would also be threatening their skies and their people. This is serious.

The electoral political system that we have come to depend upon requires us to be diligent without ceasing that every vote of every American is counted. However they vote, there should be no aftermath of a foreign entity having hacked into any process that would deny America her precious right to vote and the decision on those who will serve them and certainly the Presidency of the United States. Let no candidate be so close to the Russian apparatus that we do not follow the trail and investigate wherever it is necessary to ensure the sanctity of that process.

Let me also say that it is important, as this Congress begins to deal with the confusion of the continuing resolution, that it be noted that we have not addressed the question of gun violence, ending gun violence, closing the loophole that is so important in a background check that allows people to get guns because they get it without the background check being completed; or in the issue of terrorism, that those who are on the terrorist watch list have random access to buying guns.

Simple legislation that could be passed. I think it is crucial in America that we do so because the violence has many roots—housing, health care, poverty—but certainly it has the tool, and that is guns. That is automatic weapons like AK-47s and others more sophisticated.

America has a right to the Second Amendment, but the people of America have a right to safety and the prevention of gun violence in their community.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me also talk about Houston, Texas, and the tax day floods. It is important that the CR covers the floods of Houston and covers Baton Rouge, as well as the water crisis in Flint. Let us do what the American people ask us to come here for: to be an umbrella on a rainy day, helping people, coming to their aid, clean water in Flint, providing for the people in Greenspoint, the reimbursement of the city of Houston, and helping the people of Baton Rouge get on their feet. Let us help America as we should.

OBAMACARE IS FALLING APART

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this has been an interesting week for many of my constituents in Tennessee. Over 100,000 Tennesseans were forced—100,000 Tennesseans were forced off their healthcare plan. They did nothing wrong. It is not their fault.

What has happened is another of the Affordable Care Act's—or ObamaCare, as we call it—providers has said: Guess what. This is too expensive to offer a product.

And they have exited the marketplace.

Now, what we are seeing is exactly what we in Tennessee told you would happen with ObamaCare.

Why?

Because in Tennessee, we were the test case back in the midnineties for Hillary Clinton's grand healthcare experiment. HillaryCare became TennCare in Tennessee.

We knew that a product that was too expensive to afford was not going to be utilized and that eventually providers would drop out of the marketplace, eventually the networks would narrow, and eventually individuals would have a very difficult time accessing health care.

□ 1100

So, through no fault of their own, 100,000 Tennesseans who are in the Nashville, Memphis, and Knoxville areas are going to find that they have fewer choices in health care. They didn't get to keep the doctors whom they wanted or liked or had. They didn't get to keep the healthcare plans that they wanted or liked or had. Certainly, they were not saving \$2,500 per